

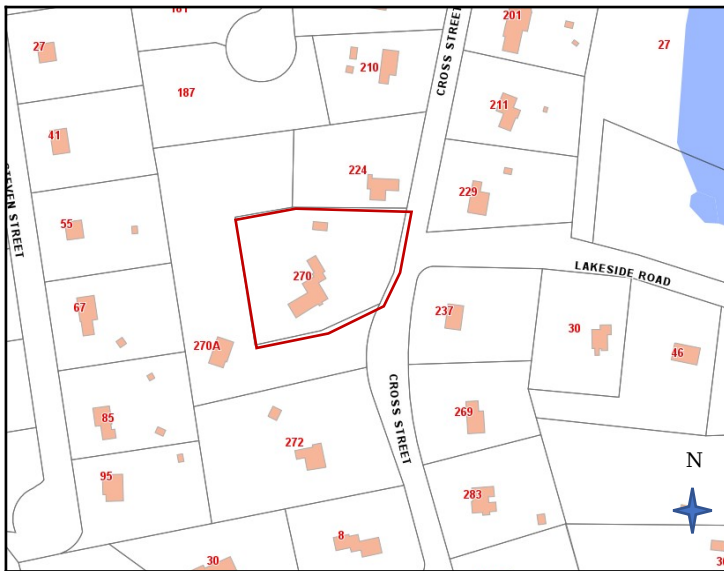
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Town of Hanson Historical
Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

88-0-1-0

Hanover

HNS.194

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 270 Cross Street

Historic Name: Nathan and Rebecca Stevens
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca.1800

Source: White's History, Plan #7, Property #17
and Plymouth Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two-car gable-end garage located to the north of
the house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Additions to
the west and north of the house, vinyl
replacement windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.13 Acres

Setting: Located in a residential neighborhood
of predominantly single-family homes ranging
from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late
twentieth century suburban development on large
lots which includes grass lawns and numerous
mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house is set well back from the road at the top of a low rise and is surrounded by granite outcroppings. The structure has been extensively enlarged over time with what appears to be five separate one and one-and-a-half story sections. The original asphalt shingled, gable roofed house is visible in the southwest corner of the structure to the left of the first addition which is both a taller and wider version of the original house. A second, lower gable-end roofed addition extends from the center of the north façade of the original house. The third addition extends to the east from the north façade of the second addition, and the final addition extends across the north façade of the third addition. The result is an unusual snaking footprint of low, attached gable roofed structures. All of the buildings are finished in wood shingle siding, but only the north façade of the original house and first addition are painted. The gable roofs are consistent throughout the structure, projecting out in narrow eaves over the gable facades, and ending flush to the gable-end facades which are trimmed with a narrow wood board along their outer edges and cornerboards. The original double hung windows have been replaced with six-over-six vinyl replacement windows. The house also has two exterior brick chimneys. A short and narrow corbeled chimney extends up the east façade of the original house just to the left of the roof peak while on the west gable-end of the first addition, a wide rectangular chimney extends up through the roof peak. Neither of these chimneys are original to the building.

The house is oriented to face south rather than to face Cross Street, which runs along the parcel's east property line. The south façade is broken into two halves. On the right, the original house is simply detailed with two double hung windows on either side of a small projecting entry. The enclosure has a low hip roof extending out of the south slope of the gable roof with a solid wood door on its southern end. Due to the distance of the house from the road, the style and detailing of the door cannot be determined. To its left, the first addition stands approximately one foot taller than the original house. The north roof slopes of the two sections are in line with one another causing the first addition's roof peak and south façade to extend several feet in front of the main building. A large wood deck extends across the south façade of the first addition. The deck is unpainted wood built on square posts with tall wood railings and square balusters. The south façade of the first addition has a large four part casement window on the left and a sliding door on the right. Two skylights are located in the south slope of the gable roof above.

While the original front entrance to the house is located on the south façade, the east façade faces the street and has the more commonly used entrance to the house. Beginning on the left side, the east façade of the original house has a double hung window in the gable-end and two on the first floor, one on either side of the chimney. The second addition steps back from the northeast corner of the original house, creating a small courtyard as the third addition juts out to the east on the far side. Only a narrow portion of the second addition is visible on the east façade, where a double hung window is centered on the façade. To its right, the south façade of the third addition has a large, single paned sliding door opening into the courtyard space. The third addition's narrow gable-end has a door at the center of the façade which is presumed to be the main entrance to the building. The door appears to be a wood door with a large window in its upper half behind a later storm door. The fourth addition to the right of the entrance extends several feet to the east of the entrance, making it

Continuation sheet 3

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the longest and widest of the additions to the north façade of the original house. A single double hung window is visible on its south façade facing the gable-end entrance, and two more windows are visible along its east façade.

The house sprawls across the top of a low hill which slopes down to the east and south. The land between the house and the street is open grass lawn with a few mature trees, bushes and planting areas. A large rock outcropping is located to the east of the original house and the heavily vegetated land slopes up more steeply to the west and north of the buildings. A long gravel driveway extends from Cross Street to the northeast corner of the final addition. A large gable-end roofed garage is located to the northeast of the house and to the north of the driveway. The garage is also wood shingled and is painted on the east gable-end but not on the sides. Although the garage doors face west and are not visible from the public way, the garage is believed to accommodate two cars.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White's History of Hanson states that 270 Cross Street was the home of Lewis White as well as being the former Nathan Stevens place built "prior to 1830 and probably long before 1800." Nathan Stevens purchased land in Hanson, then listed as the "southern village" of Pembroke in the deed from Adam Perry in 1800, adding additional meadow lands to his holding in 1812 when he purchased a smaller piece of land from Noah Bonney, Jr.¹ Neither deed references any buildings on the land at that time, which suggests that the house was built by Nathan Stevens sometime after his purchase of the site in 1800. Nathan Stevens (1744-1839) was a farmer and is also listed in the 1820 U.S. Census as working in manufacturing. He was married twice - first to Rebecca Leavitt in 1770 (died 1815) and later to Deborah Leavitt in 1819 - and was buried in Fern Hill Cemetery after his death in 1839.

In 1830, Stevens sold the property to his son, Nathan Stevens, Jr. This deed notes that the sale included the first Nathan Stevens' dwelling house.² The transition is also recorded on the 1830 Smith Plan, which shows Nathan Stevens Jr. as living in the current location of the house, while his father lived in the next house to the south near present day Crescent Street. This second Nathan Stevens (1779-1861) was the son of Nathan Stevens and his first wife, Rebecca. Nathan lived in Hanson with his wife, Hannah, and is listed as late as 1860 in state and federal census records as a carpenter and housewright. The second Nathan Stevens is still listed as the owner of the property on the 1856 Walling Map, but the land had in fact already been sold to their neighbor, Thomas Delano, whose property was located just to the south of the Stevens' land.³ Thomas Delano was listed the previous year in the state census as a shoemaker and was later referred to as a retired tailor. After his death in 1782, his property passed on to his son, George Delano, and daughter, Helen Muirhead, who sold the property in 1878 to Lewis White. The 1879 Richards Atlas still shows the land as belonging to Helen's husband, Robert Muirhead, but does show Lewis White as living in the adjacent home to the south. Interestingly, the outline of the building on the 1903 Richard Atlas suggests that the house had already had at least one addition to its rear facade by this time, and two outbuildings are shown to the west and south of the house. By the 1903 Richards Atlas, Lewis White is shown as the owner of both properties.

Lewis White was the husband of the second Nathan Stevens' daughter Experience. He is listed on the 1880 federal census as a tacker and had retired by the 1900 census, when the 86 year old was listed as being "at leisure." The house changed hands many times throughout the twentieth century. Lewis sold the house to

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 87, Page 210 and Book 118, Page 43

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 169, Page 23

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 263, Page 155

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Edward Prince in 1904,⁴ who sold it in 1910 to Arthur Fortier. The house was sold twice in 1914, first to Emma Tyler then to James Bell, who owned the house for over fifteen years and is noted in White's History as being the owner of the house at the time that he was conducting his research. James Bell lived at 270 Cross Street with his wife, Isabel, while working as an odd job laborer in 1910 U.S. Census and as a nailer at the box factory in 1920. By 1930, James was working as a caretaker at the Home for Working Girls and living with Isabel at the Hanson Town Infirmary. This new job may have been the reason that the Bells sold the property to Herbert and Katherine Gregson in 1926.⁵ The Gregson's had taken out a mortgage on the property from the Rockland Co-operative Bank for the purchase and the Bank foreclosed on the site in the mid-1930s. The Bank sold the property to Charles and Elinor Martin in 1935, who sold it to William and Katherine Lynch in 1936.⁶

The Lynchs remained at 270 Cross Street until 1944, when they sold the house to Ray and Marguerite Burr.⁷ The Burrs remained in the house until 1972, then sold the property to John and Dorothy Olson, who only lived there for a year before selling the house to William and Joan Garretson. The Garretsons also remained in the house for a number of years, and the house was not sold again until 1986 when Robert and Margaret Ryan moved to the property. The house was sold again in 2002 to Gerald and Deena Bullock, who lived there for five years before selling the house in 2007 to Andrew and Bonnie MacWalter.⁸ The MacWalters sold the house in 2015 to current owners Justin and Katie Reed

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⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 892, Page 360

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1519, Book 167

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1711, Book 389

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1866, Book 45

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 34841, Page 329

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The ca. 1800 Cape style house is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century construction and illustrates how these homes were expanded and adapted over time to meet the changing needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.

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